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Middle East

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : S/P - Mr. Ferguson

DATE: June 17, 1952

FROM : NEA - Mr. Daspit AD

SUBJECT:

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This is NEA's (Daspit's) paper re ME Defense Organization

Attached is a short draft which attempts to summarize the major ideas on the Middle East Defense Organization as these have developed in discussions within the Department in the last couple of weeks. An outline of a possible form of organization appears as Part III of the draft.

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MIDDLE EAST DEFENSE ORGANIZATION

I. Objective:

1. To produce a favorable political climate which will facilitate Middle East co-operation with the West, primarily in the defense of the Middle East, but, by extension, in other fields as well.
2. To provide recognition and support of Britain's primary role in the defense of the area.
3. To promote the development, acceptance and implementation of a strategic plan for the forward defense of the Middle East.
4. To encourage those non-Middle East states which have an important interest in the area to make their maximum possible contribution to the furtherance of this strategic plan.
5. To encourage the Middle East States to maximize their contribution to the Middle East defense.
6. To assist in channeling Western training and military assistance programs to the Near East states in a manner calculated to serve the defense plan.
7. To give guidance and encouragement in the development of bases and other facilities needed for Middle East defense and to assist in channeling cooperative efforts toward the development of such facilities.
8. To develop an organization which could readily become an operating Command when required.
9. To secure agreement to the use of facilities which will be necessary to the Supreme Allied Commander in conducting the defense of the Middle East.

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II. General Considerations:

1. The organization should be drawn in a manner designed, as far as possible, to serve all the objectives. However, the promotion of the Middle East co-operation with the West is of primary concern.

2. This consideration points to essentiality of creating a structure which will be attractive to the Middle East States, even if this involves some sacrifice in military efficiency and requires the resort to ad hoc arrangements to effect some of the objectives which the organization should serve. To satisfy this objective, it will probably be necessary to accord the Middle East States a position in the organization at least formally equal to that of the Western powers. The organization both in name and structure should indicate the community of interests of its members and its co-operative nature.

3. Since it now seems apparent that the proposed organization will have no actual Command responsibilities during its early phase, this ultimate aspect of its activities need not be emphasized. It would be preferable to avoid the word "Command" in naming the organization, and to postpone the designation of a Commander. The general organization might be called the MEDO, with particular parts designated as the Middle East Defense Council, the ME Defense Planning Board and, possibly, the Middle East Defense Liaison Organization.

4. The success of the Organization in creating a community of purpose among the various participating states, and particularly as between the Middle

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the Middle East States and the Western powers, will depend primarily on its effectiveness in producing and implementing a plan which holds real promise of defending a substantial part of the Middle East.

III. Organization:

1. Middle East Defense Planning Board:

The central element in the organization should be a planning group, organized as a board.

a. Membership: The Board should be composed of military representatives of all states which are willing to co-operate in improving the defense of the Middle East. Such co-operation might involve:

i. Co-operation in the development of plans for area defense.

ii. Co-operation with the MEDO in the training and equipping of forces which will be available for area defense. This co-operation might take the form of supplying training and equipment or of supplying troops.

iii. Co-operation in the development of bases and other facilities which would be needed in war.

b. Structure: The Board might operate through a system of committees, on which various states would be represented in accordance with their varying interests. There might be committees for plans and operations, training, logistics, etc. The structure could be made roughly to approximate an actual

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an actual Command arrangement, susceptible to rapid transformation to an active Command.

c. Chairman: The Board might operate under an elective chairman. Presumably, the chairmanship would fall to the state making the most substantial contribution to ME defense.

d. Objectives: These would be substantially as stated in I. In brief: the development of plans for the defense of the area and the preparation of recommendations to member states as to actions they might take in furtherance of these plans.

e. The member of the Board might report directly to their respective chiefs of staff, or alternatively to a Higher Authority, as described in 2 below.

2. Middle East Defense Council:

a. For its political effect on the Middle East States, if for no other reasons, it will probably be desirable to establish a Committee or Council at the level of Chiefs of Staff.

b. This Council would provide guidance for the Planning Board, and would from time to time review the Board's Work.

c. The Council would need to meet only infrequently --possibly once or twice a year.

d. It might have an elective chairman.

e. If it is considered necessary, in order to provide a link with the NATO Standing Group and to give continuing guidance to the ME Planning Board, the Council might appoint a standing committee, to be called the M.E. Steering Group.

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3. Middle East Defense Liaison Organization

If the Planning Board, organized on the basis indicated, should fail to include certain significant ME states, it might be desirable to establish a liaison organization, through which these states could maintain contact with the Planning Board, if they so desired.

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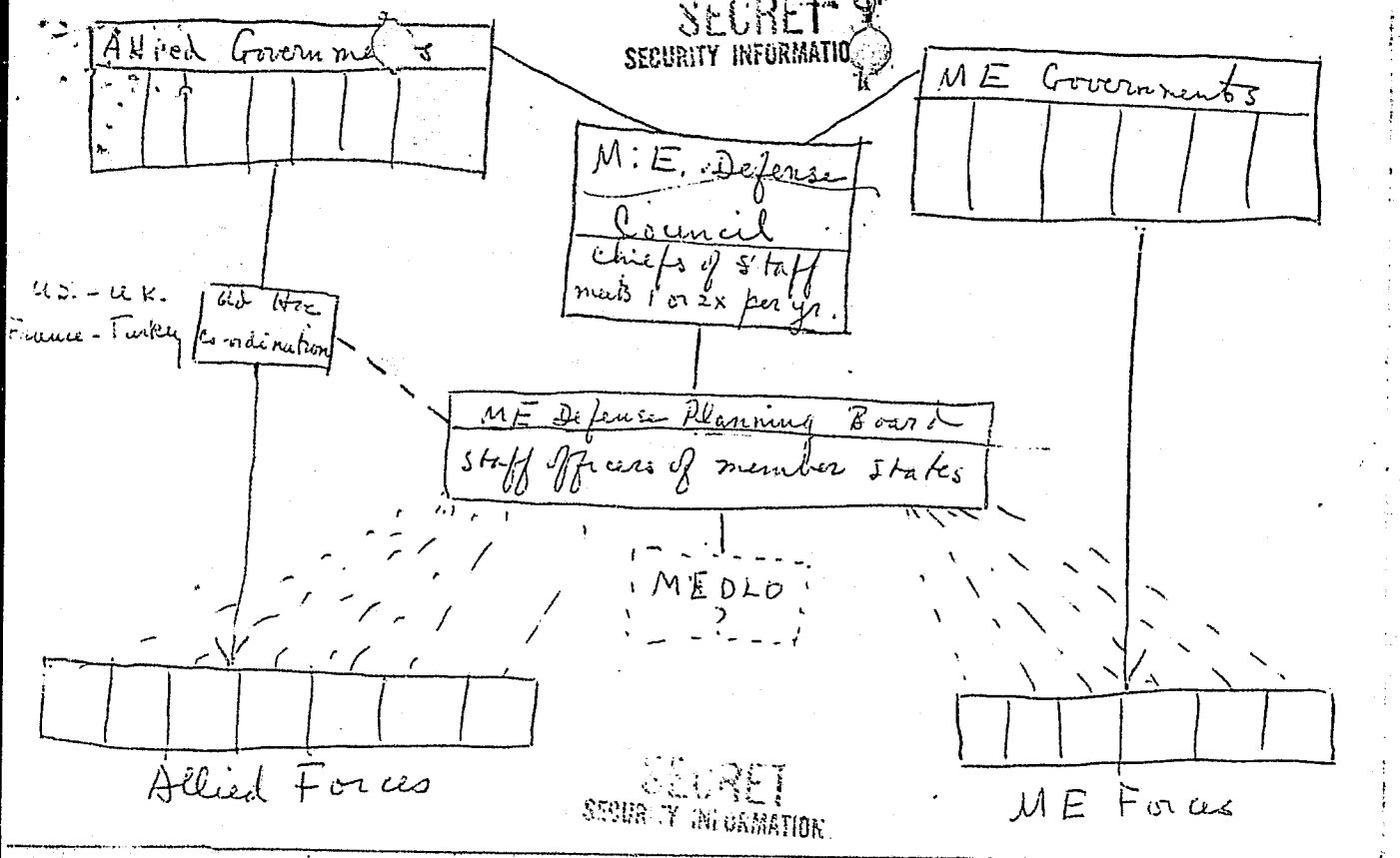

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